



**Minutes**

**EPC MONTHLY MEETING**

**June 12, 2023**

**Virtual Only**

**[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Attendance**

<b>EPC Members (13)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
		Ryan Freed, OCA
Alexander Clark	P	Valerie Amor, OCA
Benjamin Cuddy	P	Sharath Rereddy, OCA
Jennifer Debias	P	Sidney Lee – TES Summer Intern
Cynthia Elliott	E	
Oleksandr Faryga	P	<b>Guests</b>
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	Scott Barstow
Anna Marino	A	Philip Mobilia
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	P	Stephen Koenig – Planning Commission
Theresa Romanosky	P	Eldon Boes
Marta Schantz	P	
James Vandeputte	P	

**P:** Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called meeting to order and announced introductions were not necessary since one public attendee and EPC members know each other.

Valerie Amor, Energy Manager for Office of Climate Action introduced herself and provided brief overview of professional experience.

Sidney Lee, Sustainability Intern for TES, introduced herself, including field of study and environmental experience.

**2. Public Comment**

Eldon Boes is attending as a public attendee while awaiting possible reinstatement to EPC at tomorrow’s City Council meeting. Scott Barstow will speak during discussion of agenda items on grant support letters.

### 3. Administrative Items

#### a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on May 15, 2023, meeting minutes for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Second:** Ms. Theresa Romanosky; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Ms. Marta Schantz and Mr. James Vandeputte abstaining.

Vote on May 6, 2023, Retreat Meeting Minutes for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Oleksandr Faryga; **Second:** Ms. Theresa Romanosky; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Mr. Al Clark abstaining.

#### b) Reports from Commissioners

- ECCAP Task Force (Ms. Marta Schantz): Office of Climate Action brought the draft plan to City Council, discussed strong parts of action plan and how the City plans to use them moving forward.
- Chair Hoekstra mentioned that the Zebra published the EPC letter on Rewiring America. Consider other topics EPC members may want to write about.

#### c) Conduct Annual Elections

EPC Secretary announced nominations for Kathie Hoekstra as Chair and Mike Olex for Vice-Chair. Ms. Hoekstra nominated Theresa Romanosky for Secretary; Second by Ms. Marta Schantz.

- Vote for Theresa Romanosky for Secretary. Unanimous approval.
- Vote for Mike Olex for Vice-Chair. Unanimous approval.
- Vote for Kathie Hoekstra as Chair. Unanimous approval.

#### d) Letters to Council

##### Letter on Stream Report

Vote on Letter to Council regarding Stream Report. **Motion:** Mr. Oleksandr Faryga; **Second:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

##### Letter of Support on Duke Street in Motion

Mr. Eldon Boes recommended EPC provide Letter of Support for Duke Street in Motion Advisory Group's recommendations being brought to City Council. Discussion about adding supporting information regarding the importance of commitment to climate crisis.

Vote on Letter of Support to Council regarding Duke Street in Motion Advisory Group's recommendations, with changes discussed. **Motion:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Ben Cuddy; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Ms. Theresa Romanosky abstaining.

Ms. Marta Schantz mentioned the desire for EPC to do a Letter of Support for the zoning for Housing/Housing for All initiative to support the City's work in that area, when useful. Consider having briefing from Housing on topic in September and coordinating guest speaker.

#### **4. Discuss Potential Grant from DOE on Technical Training for Tradesman on Building Energy Efficiency Methods**

City is applying for a workforce grant under Virginia Tech's name, as the grant requires an educational partner. It provides passive house training for trades workers through a program put together by PHoUS that needs to be tested and see how it works before expanding nationally. Initial phase is focused on testing the training.

Climate Action Officer will update EPC on need for Letter of Support by mid-July, if approved. Mr. Dan Beattie and Chair Hoekstra will draft letter.

Vote on EPC approval for Letter of Support for the grant, if needed. **Motion:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Second:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

#### **5. Discussion on competitive grant program, Building Upgrade Prize.**

Commissioner Koenig spoke as a representative of Build Our Future, who partnered with Housing Alexandria. The competitive grant program, called the Buildings Upgrade Prize, is supported by the DOE. Grants are \$200,000 and \$400,000, intended to assist teams in developing initiatives, addressing existing buildings electrification, and energy efficiency, formulating initiatives to make them realistic.

End goal of this first phase (out of 4 phases) is to end up with buildable concepts for two designated buildings in the City – Lacy Court and Park Stone.

Vote on EPC approval for Letter of Support. **Motion:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. James Vandeputte; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

#### **6. Discuss changes to City's Interdepartmental Long Range Planning Work Program including anticipated changes as a result of the EPC's and PC's joint letter on the entitlement process and Green Building Policy**

Discussed timeline for long range planning, including summer break, recruitment of task force, topics that need to be addressed, and how to work through process. Timeline goes through end of CY2024.

- Updates to GBP: EPC discussed a list of participants (by career focus) to suggest participants on the task force that would benefit the team/goals.
- GBP only applies to changes in zoning.
- Will go through City Council at the end of summer. EPC will write a letter in support.

- Vote on Approval to write letter of support. **Motion:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Ms. Theresa Romanosky; **Vote:** Unanimous approval. Mr. Ben Cuddy and Chair Hoekstra will work on a draft letter.
- Commissioner Koenig mentioned public hearing for Planning Commission includes discussion of the long-range planning, if EPC members would like to come add testimony before PC. Mr. Ben Cuddy agreed to speak.

**7. Discuss Tabulated Information on Alexandria versus other jurisdictions related to what others are doing with new buildings, existing buildings, and associated metrics used for accountability.**

Chair Hoekstra reviewed all the information EPC members submitted prior to the meeting. Highlighted an example from Fairfax County that could be used in EPC letter to Planning Commission and City Council. Arlington and Fairfax County are best to compare since both are Dillon Rule.

**8. Climate Lens**

Ms. Cynthia Elliott raised issue of reviewing City plans and projects with a climate lens and/or an equity lens. Ms. Cynthia Elliott and Ms. Marta Schantz will work with Office of Climate Action to create a draft over this summer and bring it to the EPC to review and comment.

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Vote:** unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

**FY2023 Attendance**

Member	Sep 19, 2022	Oct 17, 2022	Nov 21, 2022	Dec 19, 2022	Jan 10, 2023	Jan 23, 2023	Jan 30, 2023	Feb 27, 2023	March 20, 2023	Apr 17, 2023	May 06, 2023	May 15, 2023	June 12, 2023	TOTALS
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100.0%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100.0%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	76.9%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	84.6%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	76.9%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	92.3%
Cynthia Elliott	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	76.9%
Oleksandr Faryga	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	76.9%
Dan Beattie	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	92.3%
Theresa Romanosky			P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	72.7%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	92.3%
James Vandeputte									P	P	P	E	P	80.0%
Anna Marino										P	P	P	A	75.0%

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